

BOROUGH OF SOUTHWOLD

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1956.

To: The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Southwold.

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Health of the Borough for the year 1956.

As will be seen from the tables of statistics which follow, little change from the normal pattern has occurred. The higher figure for the birthrate, in reality represents only a very small increase indeed, due to the small numbers under consideration. It is gratifying to be able to record, however, that the death rate is considerably below the national average. The causes of death remain substantially the same as hitherto.

It is with pleasure that I welcome a new colleague, Mr. G.Oakes taking up duty as Public Health Inspector in August last, consequent upon the resignation of Mr. C.R.Driver who was appointed to a post in Westbury U.D.C. I know that the Committee will join me in wishing Mr. Oakes an interesting and enjoyable term of office in this Borough.

This change of officer has of necessity interrupted some of the projects planned for the year, but I know that once Mr. Oakes has established himself in his post, we can carry on energetically with the various health matters requiring action. I have in mind particularly some of the work resulting from the Housing Survey carried out during 1955.

The additional sanitary arrangements at the Caravan and Camping Site appear to have relieved the difficulties there, and the new sewage disposal system at Blackshore has overcome the complaints of nuisance in that area.

The year under review saw the introduction of the antipolio vaccine and whilst supplies of this have been very limited, some of those children in Southwold who qualified for this protective measure have received it. Immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough is still, of course, as important

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as ever, and facilities for receiving these injections are provided by the family doctors and at the clinic within the Borough.

During the year, a new clinic was started in Reydon and some concern was at first felt by those at the Southwold clinic that their attendances would suffer. This has not proved to be so, both clinics continuing to be well supported.

The year was comparatively free from infectious diseases particularly so with regard to measles. Whooping cough too, was almost non existent and comparison with the figures for previous years shows a marked fall, which may well be due to the influence of immunisation against this disease.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR C. GEE.

Medical Officer of Health

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Registrar-General's estimated population (mid 1956)	2410
Number of inhabited houses as at December 31st, 1956	1266
Rateable Value as at December 31st, 1956	£41648

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
LIVE BIRTHS Legitimate	13	14	27
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	=====	=====	=====
	13	14	27
	=====	=====	=====

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	<u>Southwold.</u>	<u>Comparative figure for England & Wales.</u>
BIRTH RATE per 1,000 estimated resident population mid-1956	11.2 (Crude) 17.0 (Adjusted)	15.7
STILL BIRTHS	Nil.	
DEATH RATE per 1,000 estimated resident population mid-1956	14.9 (Crude) 9.3 (Adjusted)	11.7
DEATHS OF INFANTS under ONE year of age	Nil.	

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Syphilitic disease	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, Lung	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	2	3	5
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	-	2	2
Coronary disease angina	8	7	15
Other heart disease	-	3	3
Other circulatory disease	-	1	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	2	3
Accidents (non vehicle)	-	1	1
Suicide	1	-	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	14	22	36
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COMPARATIVE TABLE FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

	<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1952</u>
Population	2410	2440	2450	2407	2419
Births	27	26	20	30	28
Birth rate per 1,000 (Crude)	11.2	10.5	12.5	12.5	11.2
(Adjusted)	17.0	15.9	-	-	-
Deaths	36	39	38	32	37
Death rate per 1,000 (Crude)	14.9	15.9	8.9	13.9	12.4
(Adjusted)	9.3	9.2	-	-	-

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table shows the number of cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year, with a comparison of previous years.

	<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1954</u>
Measles	1	8	92
Pneumonia	8	5	2
Whooping Cough	1	4	37
Dysentery	1	-	-
Tuberculosis	3	1	1
Scarlet Fever	2	-	-

HOME HELP SERVICE.

There are five Home Helps available in the Southwold area, and during the year they devoted 1006 hours to the care of four old persons and one chronic sick patient.

BOROUGH OF SOUTHWOLD

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1956.

To: The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of
the Borough of Southwold.

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present this Annual Report on the Sanitary Administration of the Borough and the work done during the year 1956.

WATER SUPPLY.

A wholesome and sufficient supply of water for all requirements has been maintained throughout the year by the Southwold Waterworks Company Limited.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

The main sewerage scheme on the whole has worked satisfactorily. During the year, however, one serious case of flooding took place and steps have been taken to remedy this trouble.

All drains are examined before being covered in and smoke or water tests applied where applicable.

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

House refuse collection is carried out by contract, and the present contractors Messrs. May Bros. have carried out their duties with every satisfaction.

All house refuse is tipped and kept under control at our tip situated near the Gasometer works.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS DURING 1956 (including Dwellinghouses).

During the year 197 premises were visited of which 135 were dwellinghouses and 62 various other premises.

In the course of these inspections 95 defects or nuisances were found and 81 were abated.

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To secure the abatement of these defects and nuisances 10 informal notices were served upon the owners or agents concerned, in addition to personal interviews by the Public Health Inspector.

SHOP ACT, 1950: SECTION 38.

There are 101 shops in the district which are visited periodically, and there have been no contraventions.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Number of factory chimneys in the district	2.
" " observations taken	3.
" " legal proceedings taken	0.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

There have been no contraventions of the Factory Act, 1937.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Meat Inspection. No slaughtering takes place within the district, but the Public Health Inspector assists the Lothingland Rural District Council by inspecting all animals slaughtered at a slaughterhouse situated at Reydon.

Other Foods Inspection. The following tinned and other foods were inspected, condemned and destroyed, being unfit for human consumption:-

Corned Beef	6 lbs.
Shoulder Ham	10 lbs.
Luncheon Meat	8 lbs.
Cheeses	34 lbs. 8 ozs.
Cheeses (packets)	3 lbs.
	61 lbs. 8 ozs.

FOOD POISONING.

There were no cases of food poisoning during the year.

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FOOD PREMISES.

No. of premises inspected	32
" " inspections made	48
" " premises found unsatisfactory	0

No. of Premises registered under Sect. 16, Foods & Drugs Act, 1955.

Ice Cream - Manufacture	0
Ice Cream - Storage or sale only	10
Sausages, preserved foods, &c.	4

DAIRIES AND RETAIL PURVEYORS OF MILK.

There are two local dairies which are periodically inspected and are kept under good conditions.

Supplementary licences for the sale of Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested Milks respectively were issued, also 3 Dealers licences authorising the use of the Special Designations (1) Tuberculin Tested, and (2) Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised).

CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS AND BAKERIES.

These have been found to be satisfactory. One bakery ceased production during the year.

RODENT CONTROL.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS, ACT, 1949.

Prevalence of Rats and Mice.

Type of Property.	Total.	Notified by Occupier -wise.	Recorded.	Rats Major.	Rats Minor.	Mice Only
Local Authority	3	1	3	2	1	-
Dwellinghouses	996	60	117	-	60	-
Business	273	5	50	-	5	-
Agricultural	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	1272	66	170	68	2	66

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Measures of control by Local Authority.

Type of Property.	Number Inspected.	Number of Inspections.	Number of Notices Served, Section 4.	Treatments	Works.
Local Authority	3	20	0	0	
Dwellinghouses	334	334	0	0	
Business	91	91	0	0	
Agricultural	0	0	0	0	
	428	445	0	0	

Type of Property.	Number of Treatments carried out By arrangement with owner.				Block treatment of properties in different occupancies under Sec.6(1) or by informal arrangements.		
	Under Section 5 (1)		No. of Surface Asscd. Sewers.		Blocks.	No. of separate occupancies.	No. of Manholes Treated.
	Rats.	Mice only.	Rats.	Mice only.			
Local Authority	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dwellinghouses	60	0	0	0	0	0	0
Business	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Agricultural	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	68	0	0	0	0	0	0

In addition two maintenance treatments of the sewers in the District involving the baiting and poisoning of approximately 49 manholes were carried out with much success.

HOUSING.

New Houses.

No. of new houses erected by Local Authority	Nil.
No. of new houses erected by private enterprise	3.

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Improvement Grants.

No. of Improvement Grants approved during the year 7.

Disinfection, &c.

No. of premises disinfected 3.

No. of premises disinfested 1.

G.OAKES.

Public Health Inspector.

July, 1957.

